

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC ASTOR LENOX TILDEN

THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY.

Societies and Branches in the Union
602.

LAW-ABIDING.

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HOW TO HELP.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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Notes and News.

South Kensington Hostel for Belgian Refugees.

Who will help the South Kensington Branch of the London Society to equip and maintain the hostel they are starting for middle-class Belgian refugees? The immediate necessities are household furniture of all kinds, an office writing table or roll-top bureau, blankets, house and table linen, crockery, cooking utensils, coal, and food, in fact, everything that is required to fit up and run such an establishment, not forgetting money, in the form of donations or weekly or monthly contributions. The house itself (1, Argyll Road, Kensington) has been most generously lent by Mr. Fremantle, K.C., and will be opened on Tuesday, November 10th. Help is urgently needed. Promises of money and of gifts or loans of furniture, &c., as well as offers of personal service of all kinds will be gratefully received by Mrs. Fyffe, Member of the Executive Committee of the London Society. Address, 79, Victoria Road, Kensington.

The Maternity Scheme of the Women's Co-operative Guild.

Mrs. Hills, whom the N.U.W.S.S. has "lent" to the work of organising the Maternity Scheme put forward by the Co-operative Guild, said, at the Kingsway Hall on October 20th, she wished we could publish in the press "a double roll of names—a roll of honour, of the men who died on the field; and a roll of shame, of the babies who died of preventable causes."

Some of those preventable—and pitiful—causes are described in an article by "Guildswoman" this week.

When Parliament Meets.

On November 11th Parliament meets. It will be faced with the difficulty of obtaining recruits. The young and the unmarried have mostly been enrolled already. Many of the married will not volunteer because they are torn between the desire to go to the front and the fear of leaving their wives and families destitute. Why should so terrible a choice be forced upon them? Let us see to it that those who are dependent on men at the front are not starved at home, and let us recognise that what is done for them is, as Miss Margaret Ashton stated at a meeting recently held in Manchester, not charity, but the payment of a just obligation.

Government Sweating—and Its Effects.

We publish in another column details given in *The Daily Chronicle* of the prices paid to women for Government work. We hear from another quarter that these sweating rates are accompanied by a relaxation of the rules about overtime. The suffering inflicted on the women in consequence is frightful. Is it not senseless to overwork our own women, insist on the idleness of the Belgians, and then—presumably—justify ourselves on the grounds of economy? That sweated work is bad work the Government should surely know by this time. Looking at their rates of pay, we need no longer wonder at the complaints heard on every side of the shoddy work put into our soldiers' uniforms. One soldier who has spent hours sewing on the buttons and strengthening the seams of his uniform, asks with natural annoyance why he should do work that someone else has been paid to do. The answer is that no one has been paid to do it. Someone has been sweated. The state of his uniform is the result. The state of his health when he goes to the front to face long exposure, and hardship, and rigour, and cold, insufficiently protected by shoddy clothing will be another.

Can't we get a woman at the War Office? Not for her sake or our sakes, or the sake of Women's Suffrage, but simply for the sake of our soldiers? A woman would *know* they must be properly clothed. Men seem to think it is enough if they are properly armed. But it is not. Queen Victoria went so far as to "wish we had Florence Nightingale at the War Office." Can't we get on a little faster, and see that (for instance) Miss Adelaide Anderson is at the War Office?

SNA
X

Volunteer Work.

We publish this week a letter from Lady Selborne, in which she urges the claims of the volunteer worker. We agree with her that there is room for such work, but we earnestly deprecate its being offered in the place of paid work. Mrs. Rackham's lectures which are reported in this paper, show how and where voluntary workers are needed. They ought not to rush in anywhere and everywhere without thought. A little caution at the beginning of the war, in regard (for instance) to shirt-making, would have prevented a good deal of acute, if temporary, distress among women in that industry. Hand-knitting, on the other hand, is not an organised trade, as shirt-making is, and volunteers will do no harm here. Clerical work—beloved of amateurs—is much better done by experts, and experts are hard hit by the war. We can imagine no theory of economics which will be convincing to a secretary out of work, who is offered (very inadequate) relief, by a committee whose secretarial work is done by a volunteer—except the theory preached in these columns, that it is better to give employment than doles. And, sorry as we are for the volunteer who sincerely wants to help and has no training, we believe she will deserve best of her country now by pausing to inquire where help is really needed, and then pausing again to get herself properly trained. By the time she is efficient, most of us will have broken down, and she will come in gloriously, full of enthusiasm and confidence, over our exhausted selves. That is where she will be wanted.

Holland—and Our Allies.

Will every reader of this paper look at the picture on the next page, showing a number of Belgian refugees in a concert-hall in a Dutch city? They are sheltered there because there is nowhere else for them to go. Men, women, children lie in rows on straw, all together. Miss Walshe (who has been to Holland and who brought us our picture) says that "the sanitary problem" created by the presence of refugees in such enormous numbers, "is acute." Holland runs the risk of epidemic disease because, with her limited space and means of accommodation, she cannot tackle the business as we could here. "This is so terribly unfair that, even if we, too, were neutral, we could not stand by and see the Dutch and Belgians suffer thus." But we are not neutral; we are the allies of Belgium. There is nothing that we can do for her which will cost us one-tenth part of what she has done for us.

How to Share.

Now that we have realised the needs of Belgium, what are we going to do? We shall not have met our obligations to her if we simply consent to receive her people while refusing to let them work. Let us face the fact courageously—it is as demoralizing to refugees as to anyone else to be compelled to live on charity. We must share with them not food only, but all we have, including work. They have lost all. Let us set to work and think how to utilise the services they are wanting to give, in such a way as to hurt others least and help them most. The King of the Belgians has urged us to remember that his people want work, not charity. It will be a mere mockery of help if we are to reject this touching appeal, and insist on the idleness of naturally industrious people. Our economists are apparently falling back upon the brainless belief that somehow or other, idleness is more profitable in refugees than work. Instead of this, they should be setting themselves to work to think how, in this country, work can be best applied. That is what they are there for.

The Kindness of the Poor.

It is, as usual, the workers who are hardest hit who know best what sharing means. They are not content to let the Belgians come, on condition that they sit idle when here. As a shop-girl said only the other day: "Why shouldn't they work? It's hard enough for all of us, but we've got to share all there is!" It is, we repeat, the business of the expert not to sit down hopelessly in face of the problem, but to solve it. The elements in it are:—a number of industrious and (in many cases) skilled workers wanting work, a country which is constantly complaining that its waste places are not cultivated, nor its food-supply as large as it might be; a working-class population which is trying to raise the standard of life, and rightly afraid of low-paid competitive labour, whether by women or children, or refugees. It is no solution to say, "Let us support the refugees on condition that they do nothing."

A Sergeant on Camp Morals.

A correspondent has sent us the following letter from a former sergeant, now on police duty with Kitchener's Army. She writes that she sends him *THE COMMON CAUSE* fairly frequently, for him to put on the table of the Y.M.C.A. Reading Tent, and that he finds the paper most valuable. "He says that the men who have joined Kitchener's Army are, many of them, a wonderfully fine type of manhood. But I gather that they are, for the most part, very ignorant of the 'women's movement,' and accustomed to the conventional ideas about women. A word just now from a somewhat older man, an experienced soldier, in support of women's claim to be treated as full citizens and equal comrades with men, naturally has far greater weight with them than a great many words from a woman; and *THE COMMON CAUSE* gives my friend the opportunity of getting in a word in season. I wish the paper were sent to every Y.M.C.A. tent in the kingdom."

"I have read the article you refer to in *THE COMMON CAUSE*, read it with disgust and loathing. That the authorities should, in an enlightened age like the present, attempt to re-establish an Act abhorrent to all right-minded men and women, is paramount to a confession that vice in all its vileness is necessary to an Army's well-being. God forbid that such should be the case. Why should our fallen sisters be made to bear this indignity and the man go free? Again, should this Act again come into force, would not that vilest of the vile, 'The White Slaver,' reap a rich harvest in procuring innocent victims to satisfy the lustful passions of a licentious Army—made licentious by this Act, which protects the man and shames and debases the poor victim of his passion?"

"I myself have soldiered in India 6 years; Egypt, 1 year; Aden, 1 year; Malta, 1 year; South Africa, 1½ years, and also in several stations in England; and I make bold to say that in all those places where compounds existed and were abolished, the tone of the army stationed there is better, and the percentage of prostitution less than when this Act was in force. Also, I think that no man worthy of serving his King and country would for a moment sanction the passing of an Act which has been proved worse than useless and brutally disgusting—in fact, an aid to the furtherance of prostitution instead of a deterrent, and an utterly useless factor in the suppression of venereal disease, which, I take it, will only be accomplished when the chivalry of our young men is appealed to to uphold the honour of their womanhood, and to live a clean and healthy life. And so, dear friend, it is up to you and others of you, who have banded themselves together, to strive hard to attain the goal ahead of you, in the attainment of which you will be able to strike hard and fiercely for the freedom and emancipation of our fallen sisters. God bless your efforts; you know how I feel upon this subject, and will, I am sure, pardon me if I have hurt your feelings in any way; but I see so much of degradation and wickedness around that perhaps I am tempted to speak more strongly than I ought. But in this great crisis, our women have sacrificed all, and are reaping a whirlwind of sorrow and pain, I hate to hear one word spoken against them. We none of us know what we should have been but for the grace of God, who has kept us clean."

EXTRACT FROM ANOTHER LETTER BY SAME WRITER.

"I received the paper safe and it is now on its way to France, where I am sure some of our brave lads will read it and pass it on to others . . ."

"I am sure our womenfolk will, after this terrible war, demand to have a voice in the Government of our country; they have indeed given of their best. They have suffered in silence, have mourned their dead uncomplainingly, and surely this will give them their heart's desire."

WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.

In addition to the Women Patrols, a Corps of Women Police Volunteers are being enrolled, on the initiative of the Women's Freedom League, to take duty at railway stations, relief depôts, police-courts, in parks and public gardens, and in the streets. For some time there has been an agitation for the appointment in this country of women police officials, similar to those which have done such excellent work in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Germany. But opposition has been strong, and though Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, and—since the outbreak of the war—Hull have appointed women in this capacity, it seems unlikely that any large number will be employed unless their usefulness can be brought home to the general public. It is felt, however, by the Freedom League that the present is a favourable opportunity to illustrate the services they can render. The supply of trained men in the police and other services has been seriously drained for purposes of national defence; while women are doing, in this period of emergency, all sorts of unusual things in the public interest without exciting remark. A corps of volunteers has therefore been formed, in the hope that by their helpfulness at this time they may so win the confidence of the public that they will eventually be recognised by the Government, and lead to the appointment of salaried women officials with definite powers of arrest. Their work must, of course, be hampered by the lack of this recognition; and great care and tact are necessary to avoid exciting the jealousy and opposition of the male Force. But even with this handicap they should be able to do useful work.

A Woman's Adventures at the Front.—II.

Further Experience of a Suffragist Nurse in Belgium.

(Continued from the Article in our issue of October 9th.)

After I had been in Brussels about three weeks, the Germans closed down every ambulance in the place, making them take their Red Cross flag in, turning out all the English nurses from the hospitals, and putting German nurses in instead. So all my nurses, and everybody else's too, were out of work. We waited like that for a week. You cannot imagine how difficult life is without any post, any telephone, any telegraph, any train, any news. At Marcinelle we had no news at all, but in Brussels the English papers trickled in through runners from Ostend, in spite of all the prohibitions and the punishments threatened if they were caught. At one time a copy of *The Times* cost 3 francs, then it went up to 5, then to 9, then to 15. One day it could not be got at all, and the next day it was 23 francs; that was the highest it ever reached, and it soon came down to 5 or 7.50 francs.

Then one day the order came, all English nurses (that meant about 120 altogether) were to quit Brussels. I did not at all want to go, as I could not bear to leave my nurses behind in Belgium—I had one at Tirlemont and four at Charleroi. So I went to bed and said I was ill, and the German commander sent a message to say in that case I must go to a German hospital, and have a German nurse. That wouldn't have helped, so I got up, and the next day we started off, thinking we were going to Holland. We were put into a military train, made up of very uncomfortable 3rd class carriages—we were eight in a compartment meant for six, and had two soldiers in each carriage with loaded rifles. At the stations the windows had to be shut, and the blinds drawn across, and, of course, we were not allowed to get out at any of the stations. The train simply crawled, and we were thirty hours getting just from Brussels to Cologne. There we were turned out of the train, and trailed along endless platforms and underground labyrinths with all our hand luggage, no porter being allowed to help, and strongly guarded by the soldiers. We were allowed to buy supper at Cologne, and the Commandant there treated us very kindly. Then we were put in another train—a much more comfortable one—and I overheard a German officer saying we were going to Hamburg. I could not imagine what we were going to do there.

We arrived there late at night too, and a crowd of people—very hostile—were there to look at us, and make remarks. It was frightfully humiliating for English people, as you may think. Then we were guarded and taken across the Kiel Canal, every chink being closed up, and soldiers standing against the door. We knew by then that we were being sent to Denmark, and you may think how thankful we were to get to Copenhagen on the fourth day. Everybody here has been most kind and hospitable, and we are in a fair way to being spoilt. Now all the nurses have gone back to England except three sisters, who are staying here with me, as we go to Russia next week, with, of course, permission from headquarters in England.

We are having a week's rest in a most beautiful little seaside place, with lovely woods all round—about one hour from Copenhagen—and are guests of the Danish Council of Nurses. We are being utterly spoilt—fire in my room, meals every two hours, not obliged to talk to anyone, for which I am truly thankful, for I felt absolutely worn out when I came, but I shall be quite ready for the fray next week.



F. B. den Boer, Middelburg.]

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT MIDDELBURG.

CLUBS FOR WIVES OF SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

The need of wives and relatives of sailors and soldiers for some sort of recreation to relieve the strain of their constant anxiety is being widely recognised, and clubs are being opened for their benefit in many places. Some of our own societies are engaged in this work, and we hope to publish details of their efforts soon.

How To Do It.

In Hammersmith some recreation rooms were opened last week by Lady Jellicoe at the Baths, Black's Road, Bridge Road, and are planned on very sensible lines. A free club room for reading and writing will always be at the disposal of women; light refreshments at moderate prices can be obtained at any time; and music and entertainments will be provided. The club is open from 10.30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday from 2 p.m.

How Not To Do It.

Unfortunately, however, some of these clubs are being run by ladies who obviously have no knowledge of the needs of the class they wish to help, and it seems a pity that so much well-intentioned effort should be wasted for want of a little thought and inquiry. One club, for example, is open only from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. Now is it likely that working women with any household duties to perform can come to a club at 9 o'clock in the morning? And why, in the name of common-sense, should it be closed at four?—just the time when most of the members would be thinking about a cup of tea.

What is required is surely a comfortably furnished, homely place, run by simple sympathetic women, capable of understanding the point of view of the members, entering into their troubles and difficulties, and giving advice and encouragement without patronage.

Condescending ladies, magnificently dressed, are apt to create an atmosphere of chill ceremony, however amiable their intentions may be. And the hours must be fixed to suit the convenience of the members, not of the helpers.

HELP FOR CLERICAL WORKERS.

A private fund has been opened to help educated women out of work during the war, and it is proposed to use it in the following way:—

- (1) To send efficient secretaries to help any of the new organisations which cannot afford to pay assistants.
 - (2) To pay the secretaries a salary according to their qualifications, thus helping both the secretary and the Society.
 - (3) In case of acute distress to offer immediate monetary relief.
- We shall be pleased to place any organisations requiring such help in touch with the lady controlling the Fund, and to forward to her any suggestions.

ARMY CLOTHES MADE BY SWEATED WORK.

The report of the Bethnal Green Medical Officer to the local Public Health Committee shows that the relaxation of the Government rule that Army work shall not be done by home workers is resulting in shameful sweating. The Committee states that the work passes through the hands of so many "middlemen," that the rate of pay received in their borough by those who actually do the work is quite inadequate. The following are some examples:—

- Making and finishing blue serge tunics.—2s. 6d. each—complete finishing. Thread and silk purchased from the firm.
- Black canvas kit bags.—2s. 6d. dozen. Thread purchased from firm.
- Fawn "Jean" kit bags.—10d. dozen. Thread found.
- Khaki haversacks.—2s. 6d. dozen. Have to purchase own thread from firm at 6d. spool of 2oz. Two spools make three dozen bags.
- "Jean" kit bags.—4s. 6d. dozen finished. Have to purchase own cotton and thread.
- Finishing khaki trousers.—2s. dozen. Have to purchase own thread.
- Trouser finishing.—2d. per pair. Has to buy cotton at 2d. spool and thread at 4d. spool (average cost 1s. 6d. weekly).
- Making kit bags of brown canvas.—1s. 9d. per dozen finished. Thread supplied by employer.

A "PALS' BATTALION" OF WOMEN.

At a public meeting organised by the Leeds W.S.S. on "Women's Work in Time of War," Miss Margaret Ashton delighted the audience by sketching a scheme for a "Pals' Battalion" of women, who should train for Colonial life and emigrate.



Warm Winter Tailor - mades

We have just made up about 250 Smart Winter Tailor-mades in four designs, of which the garment sketched is an example. These Suits are made from high-grade Novelty Tweeds, Vicunas, Boucle Cloths and Striped Velours, which sell in the ordinary way at from 7/6 to 10/6 per yard. As the quantity is limited the garments cannot be sent on approval, or made specially to order.

Smart Street Suit (as sketch), in high-grade Novelty Tweeds, Vicunas, Boucle Cloths. All Dark shades ... **£4**

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Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT.

MADAM,—I also read with dismay the letter of Miss N. O'Shea on "Women's Peace Movement." In Sir Ian Hamilton's book, *A Staff Officer's Scrap Book*, he quotes a verdict of Ruskin which I am now copying. "All the pure and noble arts of peace are founded on war; no great art ever rose on earth but among a nation of soldiers. . . . There is no great art possible to a nation but that which is based on battle. . . . When I tell you that war is the foundation of all the arts, I mean also that it is the foundation of all the high virtues and faculties of men. It is very strange to me to discover this; and very dreadful—but I saw it to be quite an undeniable fact. The common notion that peace and the virtues of civil life flourished together I found to be wholly untenable. Peace and the vices of civil life only flourish together. We talk of peace and learning, of peace and plenty, and of peace and civilisation; but I found that those were not the words which the Muse of History coupled together; that, on her lips, the words were peace and sensuality—peace and selfishness—peace and death. I found, in brief, that all great nations learned their truth of word, and strength of thought, in war; that they were nourished in war, and wasted by peace; taught by war, and deceived by peace; trained by war, and betrayed by peace; in a word, that they were born in war, and expired in peace."

Sir Ian thinks all school children should be taught this. I would add that seeing we have to kill to keep ourselves alive, it is better also to teach that death in defence of high ideals is a fine thing, not an evil. This present war has acted like a tonic; you can see it in the very way people walk now.

EMILY A. COOKE.

MADAM,—I have read with interest the correspondence with regard to the peace movement suggested by Miss N. O'Shea. Does it not, however, seem a pity that members of the N.U., who have one great aim in common, should become divided (as to my own knowledge some are doing) on account of opinions which must differ on such a many-sided question? Surely it is enough that each one of us hates war in the abstract, and is at the present time doing her best, according to her opportunities, to help those affected by it. This is sufficient for the energies of most of us, and we need not use them in writing against those who differ from us. Some of us think that we are now as a nation fighting a war so that in the future war may be no more; others that war is wholly evil. Let each be fully persuaded in her own mind. The words of Marcus Aurelius come to my mind: "Look deeply into the thoughts of others and give them the same liberty as your own." I wish that the correspondence might cease!

SPERO.

[It is difficult to see how we can "look deeply into the thoughts of others" if we do not allow them to be expressed. Our correspondence columns give this liberty to all.—ED., "C.C."]

MADAM,—It has greatly surprised me to find that none of your correspondents have realised that already they are one and all working on behalf of "The Women's Peace Movement."

"The day that sees women take their place beside men in the governance and arrangement of the external affairs of their race will also be the day that heralds the death of war as a means of settling human differences." Why? The end will not come because women lack either the courage or the ability which war demands, but simply because "on this point the knowledge of women, as women, is superior to that of men." Women know the history of life and the cost of human flesh; men do not. In a besieged city, it might happen that men might seize without hesitation upon statues and carvings, and throw them into the breaches made by the enemy. Yet, surely one man would hesitate before committing such a work of destruction. That man would be the sculptor, for he would realise the ultimate cost of what was being done. Men's bodies, women's work of art, are not brought to perfection without much toil and anguish. Surely, then, women know better than men the cost demanded by war, and would hesitate before filling the breach in international harmony with the bodies of their sons.

This argument, drawn from Olive Schreiner's *Woman and Labour*, does not, as some might think, lose in value, because it may be pointed out that the enfranchised women of Australia have not refused to send their sons to lay down their lives in the present conflict. As yet the story is but half told.

War is only possible so long as it is not realised that the peoples of the world are possessed of a common humanity. If, as at present, few nations recognise that all those within their borders are possessed of a common humanity, how is it possible that the peoples of the world should understand that they possess a common humanity one with another? Within every nation must first be seen the inward reality of the Women's Suffrage movement—the claim that "humanity is a greater and a deeper thing than sex, that women hold that humanity in common with men, equally with men, that men and women are possessed of a common humanity." Then, holding this faith, will the world's men and women together be better able to realise that, valuable as it may be, their separate nationality is of small importance compared with their common humanity.

The success of the Women's Peace Movement will only be possible when Women's Suffrage is an accomplished fact. Let us, therefore, now and ever work to accomplish the one object which we all have so much at heart—the enfranchisement of women—for therein may be found deliverance from more than one of the evils which at present beset us.

T. TINDLE ANDERSON, JUN.

RELIEF FOR WOMEN "ALIEN ENEMIES."

DEAR MADAM,—Having only recently returned from Germany myself I am only now able to read up the back numbers of *THE COMMON CAUSE*, which have accumulated during my absence. I should like now to

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Lorgnettes.

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thank you for your efforts on behalf of German women and the English wives of Germans in this country, who count unfortunately as "alien enemies," owing to our absurd Nationality laws, still unreformed in spite of the endeavours of Women Suffragists.

Immediately after my return—when my husband was still a prisoner in a German Camp—I identified myself with the "International Relief Committee," in Liverpool, inaugurated by Miss Alison Garland, and have since become Chairman of the Committee, which consists of English, French, and German women, all working together harmoniously to relieve the undeserved distress of the many wives of foreigners in this City.

Recently we issued an appeal for financial support in the Press and I and other members of the Committee have written innumerable private letters to friends appealing for contributions to support a Soup Kitchen, which we have started. The replies received have been very disappointing as showing how narrow in their views of charity are many women, who object to our fund, "because it would help German women" as well as those of other nationalities. We have clearly stated in our appeal that in many cases these "German" women are in fact English by birth, and have never even been in Germany. But on the other hand we have also received substantial donations from Englishwomen, who "strongly deprecate the vindictive feelings against all Germans" which have been made manifest in the Press, on the platform and in private circles.

I happen to know that many German women in Germany are trying to alleviate the hardships to which many of our own countrywomen are exposed there owing to their lack of employment or of funds, and I am proud to think that amongst the number of those, who withhold their "mites" from our fund because we assist the wives and families of Germans in their dire need, there have been no members of our local Women's Suffrage Society. They are invariably either anti-Suffragists or "indifferents." I trust that amidst all the evils inseparable from War—to which I am also glad to see so many of your correspondents have drawn attention—it may at least be reckoned for righteousness to our Women Suffragists that theirs is the Charity which is not bounded by Nationality, that theirs is a movement which embraces all women, of whatever class, creed, or race. And this it is which is the strength of our Cause, and which I believe, will, after the war, make it recognised as one of the chief movements for the maintenance of Peace amongst the nations.

BESSIE STEWART-BROWN.
(Chairman Committee, Liverpool W.S. Society.)

VOLUNTARY WORK.

MADAM,—I should like to dispute the doctrine which I see so often preached in THE COMMON CAUSE, that a woman can do no unpaid work without taking the bread out of the mouth of some needy sister.

This seems to me to rest upon a fallacy—the fallacy that there is only a certain amount of work available at any given time, and that what one has, another must go without. The demand for work is surely almost unlimited. What is limited is the amount of capital available to pay workers. It is easy to see what really happens by considering a concrete instance. Let us suppose two ladies, whom, after the fashion of our grandmothers, we will call Clarissa and Euphemia. They each have £10 which is all they can spare to provide comforts for our brave troops. Clarissa spends her £10 in wool, and with the help of her daughters and nieces proceeds to knit socks. Euphemia buys ready knitted socks, and so employs a certain number of poor women. Now for 8d. you can get enough wool to make a pair of socks, whereas 1s. will barely purchase a ready knitted pair, of good quality.

So Clarissa was able to purchase half as much wool again as was used in making Euphemia's socks, thereby giving employment also to poor women, who were employed as spinners. The £10 spent by Clarissa therefore employed as many poor people as the £10 spent by Euphemia, and she was able to send off thirty pairs of socks for every twenty sent by Euphemia.

Of the clerical work used by the Relief Funds the same thing holds good. If they pay for their clerical work, they will have less money with which to pay for other things. It is quite true that in order to relieve clerks they may be forced to use them in the only work they are capable of, but if their own clerical work is being done by unpaid helpers, they can use the clerks they pay for fresh extension of work, for sending out for instance new appeals, or accounts of work done to the public, which will bring in fresh funds.

The women who give their work are really giving more than those who only give their money. They are adding to the world's store of useful labour. The women who give money are merely transferring the right to benefit by the fruits of that labour.

MAUDE SELBORNE.

[We refer to this question in Notes and News.—ED., "C.C."]

WORK FOR THE ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

MADAM,—Instead of arguing about theories, would it not be better to study facts at first hand? Will not some members of the Active Service League see if they can cleanse the Plymouth streets from some of the vileness which is reducing local philanthropic and religious agencies to despair, and which both military and municipal authorities seem quite unable to check?

E. A. ACLAND.
(President Torquay Society N.U.W.S.S.)

THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

MADAM,—In reply to the letter under the above heading in your issue of the 23rd ult., I am afraid your correspondent has drawn an entirely wrong conclusion from the fact that her communication was overlooked in some unaccountable way. So far from having no cooks to supply we have at the present moment 126 on our books for whom we cannot find situations, also a similar number of housemaids. Upper servants in general appear to be very hardly hit owing to the war, a very large number being now unemployed. There is still a demand for cook-generals, but for the ordinary highly-paid cook there is no demand whatever. We shall be most happy to hear from any ladies who would give employment to such servants.

ALBAN GORDON.
(Secretary, Domestic Servants' Association.)

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

The Virtue of Temperance.

Attention has been called to the efforts made in Russia, France, and our own country, to make this war a "temperance war." For Russian and French prohibition of certain alcoholic drinks, and for Lord Kitchener's attitude on the same subject, we have nothing but admiration; but we would call attention to the fact that most people—unequal to the ideal set before them in Lord Kitchener's appeals—have apparently decided that temperance is a virtue only suitable for women.

"No Woman Allowed in Public-Houses," is the heading given to a report in *The Daily News* of October 30th; and the sub-title runs—"London Magistrate's Salutary Suggestion." The salutary suggestion is "to prohibit women from entering and being served in public-houses at all." It was made by Mr. Biron, and Inspector Ashton informed him that this course "is being considered by the authorities."

A drunken woman is a terrible sight. So is a drunken soldier. Russia and France have realised this, and whatever hardship is involved in foregoing the use of vodka or of absinthe during the war, is to be borne by both sexes alike. If temperance is a virtue, and intemperance a danger, it is meet that in an hour of national crisis the danger should be shunned and the virtue practised by all.

It is true that the emotional strain of war conditions is likely to lead, and apparently has led, to an increase in drinking. This strain is imposed on both men and women. The temptation is equal. If it is a national danger to have women who bear the race poisoned by alcohol, it is also a national danger to have men on whose fitness and endurance the whole fortune of the nation now depends, poisoned by alcohol too. The danger is equal. If it is wrong for women to waste the resources of the country, their own time, and money, on alcohol, which is neither food nor strength, but rather of the nature of a poison, it is also wrong for men to render themselves physically inefficient and morally uncontrolled by the same means. The sin is equal.

We are convinced that women would support a measure of total prohibition during the war; at least the women for whom we speak—the Suffragists—would do so. They have already urgently demanded that the Government should take steps to control the sale of alcohol. They will, without a doubt, support prohibition for the time being, if it is found to be necessary.

But they will not consent to a measure which distinguishes between class and class, between sex and sex. If women are to be excluded from public-houses, men must be excluded also. If public-houses are to be shut, let clubs and other premises, however aristocratic, be shut also. If alcohol is to be forbidden to some, let it be forbidden to all. Sobriety is as noble in a man as a woman; drunkenness as disgusting. One sex cannot make up for its own shortcomings by the free expression of its horror at seeing them repeated in the other; nor will women of one class acquire any merit by condemning the women of another. In this hour of danger let us reject whatever tends to divide us, and claim as an honour rather than a burden that all sacrifices shall be made in common.

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The Nation's Debt to its Mothers.—I.

Amidst a welter of temporary expedients and emergency organisations due to stress of war, it is with a feeling of relief—almost with a sense of our lost peace!—that we turn to thoughts of work which did not begin with the war, and can never be allowed to end with it.

Some of the details of the Maternity Scheme now being urged by the Women's Co-operative Guild may be said to be the direct outcome of war, since they advocate certain immediate and special forms of relief. But, in the main, the scheme is only the logical development of work already begun, already recognised as necessary, and which, if carried out, will remain as a permanent benefit to the nation for ever. For example, in the past the Guild pressed for a Maternity Benefit in the Insurance Act; later, it struggled for the concession that the benefit should be the mother's own property; and to-day, deeply convinced that the Maternity Benefit is inadequate, the Guild demands that a complete national provision shall be made to meet the enormous debt of the nation to its mothers. To-day, largely owing to the Co-operative Guild, the dreadful patience of our working mothers, their incorrigible self-sacrifice and dumb endurance are beginning to break up. Guildswomen know the problems of their maternity cannot be solved by a 30s. benefit; it lies deeper, in the overburdened lives of millions of working women, in lack of food, in over-work, and in preventable illness.

A member writes: "If the State would only do something to give all working mothers the assurance that means could be provided for rest before confinement, and attention during and after it, it would make all the difference between a safe and speedy confinement, a better offspring, therefore a better asset to the State; and a broken-down motherhood, a race of future parents who start in life very often enfeebled through the mother's privation as well as the mental and physical strain that child-birth entails." And another working-woman says: "Poor wages, bad housing, many worries, ignorance, lack of means for the bare necessities of life, are taking the vitality out of the women of this country. We have waited too long for men to realise that woman is a valuable asset to her country. The time is ripe for us to stand by and help our weaker sisters. Many go under, take to drink, and lose their better selves." And another: "Once we can make men and women understand that a woman requires rest during child-bearing, we shall not have so many of our sisters suffering and dying, or dragging out a miserable existence."

The general charge of malingering, brought by the Approved Societies when faced with a possible deficit in their funds (owing to excessive and unforeseen sickness revealed among women by the Insurance Act) falls to the ground before a Guildswoman's knowledge of actual conditions. "When I was expectant, I would have given anything to have had a good sleep during the day. I used to think it was idleness, and try to shake it off. As pregnancy is never thought a sufficient cause for even having a holiday, I simply struggled on, for fear of being held up to ridicule. You see, I was only twenty-three years old. I thought the only way was to show a brave front."

No doubt there is malingering, to quote Miss Bondfield; bad cases have been discovered, but in contrast to them are cases of women going back to work too soon because they could not bear to watch their work instead of doing it! Here is a mother's comment on this point: "I do not know which is worst—child-bearing, with anxiety of body and mind to make both ends meet, or getting about too soon, and bringing about the ailments that make life a burden. I took it for granted that women had to suffer at these times, and it was best to be brave, and not make a fuss."

The following story, in the actual words of a mother, gives a picture of the realities of many a working woman's life. It is a typical story, not only because of its heroism, but in the heart-rending waste of pain and effort which it discloses.

The writer started with all the ordinary materials for human happiness. "Motherhood stirred the depths of my being," she begins; but after the birth of her third child, the inevitable had begun to overtake her. "Many a time," she writes, "I have sat in Daddy's big chair with one child at my back, and two tinies in my lap, and cried for very weariness and hopelessness. . . . Doctors' bills grew like mushrooms. I dared not face it for a time, and then I knew I must fight this battle or go under. . . . This state is common, and the root cause is want of rest and economic strain. . . . Working class women have grown more refined, more self-respecting, less humble. But the strain is enough to upset the balance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; how much more

a pregnant mother? . . . Dimly conscious of the evils of sweating, I fashioned all their little garments, and became a sweated worker myself. . . . The drudgery, the utter monotony, the gradual lowering of the standard of life was converting me into a soulless drudge, and a nagging scold. I felt the comradeship between myself and my husband was breaking down. He could not enter into my domestic interests, and I could not enter into his intellectual pursuits, and again I had to fight or go under. I could give no time to reading, and I bought Strad's 1d. edition of Literary Masters, and used to put them on the shelf in front of me on washing day. I fastened their pages back with a clothes-peg, and learned by heart while I rubbed dirty clothes, and so I wrought my education. . . . My mental outlook was widened, and once again I stood a comrade by my husband's side. All my children have a love of good literature." Then followed the husband's illness, another baby, and a debt. The letter continues: "But here I am, forty-two, faced with a big deficit, with varicose veins, and the occasional loss of the use of my hands. . . . But I have a lovely family of children. I would like some new clothes; I have had three new dresses in fourteen years. I would like to develop mentally, but I must stifle that part of my nature until I have made good the ills of the past; and I am doing it slowly but surely, and my heart grows lighter." Another last quotation, perhaps even more moving because of its inarticulateness: "I worked too hard to tell you how we lived. I was a particularly strong woman before I married. There is not much left. I think a lot, but I cannot express it."

Some women, it is true, can stand the strain. Some say maternity costs them little. Not so the great majority. These women are fighting—it must never be forgotten—not against natural conditions, but against the unnatural conditions imposed upon them by our industrial system.

Indeed, "the time is ripe." And circumstances are exceptionally favourable. Even before the war, the Local Government Board issued a memorandum urging local authorities to take action. And if remedies were urgently required in normal times, how immeasurably more are they required to-day in view of the destitution inseparable from war! Whatever may be abandoned or set aside owing to the war, this *cannot* be set aside.

Much of the machinery is already in existence, under municipalities and voluntary associations. Maternity centres for ante-natal advice and treatment, and for care of children up to school age; maternity hospitals and rest-homes; sick room helps; provision of food for mothers and children; here and there, spasmodically, all these are in existence. But, in the words of the President of the Local Government Board: "we shall not be content until arrangements on these lines have been made all over the country."

To quote Miss Bondfield: "Though some Public Health Committees are doing splendid pioneer work, the majority are only beginning to exercise their powers, while many are doing nothing as regards maternity. Perhaps the explanation of the slowness of Public Health Authorities to develop in this direction lies in the fact that they are mainly composed of men, and the hygiene of the home is a woman's question."

Here is a task that is crying out to be done. We all look back, with longing eyes, to the days before the war, but a peace which contained beneath its surface this silent hidden warfare of helpless women was not a very noble kind of peace after all. Let us strive to build the foundations of a future peace, nobler and more precious than the world has ever known, a peace in which the poorest woman will see a great national value set upon her life, and a great chance before her, in which the inevitable sufferings of our mothers will be reduced to a minimum.

GUILDSWOMAN.

"The Englishwoman" Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

As announced in our last issue, "The Englishwoman" Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts opened on November 4th. The Exhibition, which is held at the Maddox Street Galleries, will be open from 11.0 a.m.—6.0 p.m. until November 14th, so that there will be a good opportunity of viewing the large quantity of Arts and Crafts which are all of British workmanship.

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Readers who are anxious that their relatives and friends in camp, or at the front, shall be supplied with every comfort, will be interested to learn that Messrs. Anderson, Anderson & Anderson, Ltd., of 58 and 59, Charing Cross, S.W., have all sorts of camp requisites and equipment for campaigning. These include pocket air pillows, waterproof sleeping sacks, folding camp baths, waterproof ground sheets, waterproof toilet cases, and many other articles that will make welcome presents. Service waterproof coats and staff caps are also a speciality of this firm.

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58-59, Charing Cross, S.W.**National Union Meeting at Knightsbridge
Palace Hotel.**

Owing to the disappointment of many people at being unable to attend the meeting at Kingsway Hall on October 20th, a second meeting was held on Tuesday at Knightsbridge Palace Hotel, and was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience. Mrs. Fawcett was in the chair.

Mrs. Swanwick referred to the complaint of certain Anti-suffragists that Suffragists were breaking a "truce," by continuing to express the truth as they saw it, and to drive home the lessons of the war in so far as they affected the women's question. As far as the National Union was concerned, she denied that its work had ever been of the nature of war, or that there was any sense in referring to the change in its work as a "truce." Constitutional Suffragists claimed that the work of the world would be better done if women had freedom and opportunity to do it, as men had, and if women's experience and nature had equal weight in the councils of the nations with men's experience and nature. The outbreak of the war had intensified their convictions. She believed that the only real reason brought against Women's Suffrage was that men had not yet been sufficiently civilised to abandon the methods of crude physical force. Now that the British nation was telling itself that this war was a war against the doctrine that Might is Right, they could not long evade the conclusion that civilised men must enfranchise their women.

Constitutional Suffragists were not doing their ordinary political work of furthering a Franchise Bill in Parliament, because they had the political sense to see this would be a waste of effort, and because they held that this was no time for constitutional changes other than those required for the proper prosecution of the war. But to those who realised the immense national and ethical duties involved in a right conception of politics, the work of emancipation never ceased, because everything freedom-loving men and women did was done in such a way as to advance the cause of freedom.

In this sense, then, all the active service work of the National Union brought liberty nearer, and Mrs. Swanwick proceeded to illustrate this by speaking specially of the care of maternity, the provision for unemployed women, the guardianship of young girls, and sympathetic help for older women. If all this work was done in comradeship with men—in the threefold spirit of democracy, which she took to be that of liberty, responsibility, and love—they might rest assured their cause would not fail.

THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES IN HOLLAND.

Miss Ellen Walshe told how almost every day since the dispatch of the first food ship to Flushing by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance—described in our issue of October 23rd—supplies of food and clothing have been sent to Holland for Belgian Refugees. Help is more needed now than ever, for the number who are remaining in Holland is still nearly a million, of whom 700,000 are destitute. This is a great tax on the Dutch, but they will not shirk it. In order to preserve complete neutrality, their Government have refused money for the support of refugees offered by our Government, but private philanthropy may and should come to the rescue.

The refugees are in a pitiable state. They have only the barest shelter and food. The women have small domestic duties, sewing and so on, but the men have no occupation, no tobacco, not a penny in their pockets, and no means of getting one except by begging. They have nothing to do but brood. This has been going on for three or four weeks, and will it be any wonder if some do deteriorate and beg, or worse? Food and shelter is not all. More must be done for them, or their presence will be a menace. The Dutch are going to have a Refugees' Day, the proceeds of which will be given to establish the destitute refugees in new homes. But where?

Signorina Lunati and Miss Sheepshanks also spoke.

VIGILANCE WORK.**Leeds W.S.S. Initiates a Conference.**

Among other useful pieces of work started by the Leeds W.S.S. is the formation of a Vigilance Sub-Committee to consider what steps could be taken to lessen the evils of drink and impurity which are becoming so rife in the abnormal conditions of life to-day. Representatives of N.U.W.W., the G.F.S., the Y.W.C.A., the Y.M.C.A., the B.W.T.A., the Salvation Army, and the Leeds Vigilance Council were asked to meet this Sub-Committee. From this Conference a deputation waited upon the Watch Committee, when the N.U.W.W. representative spoke especially on the need of Women Patrols. The matter was referred to the Chief Constable for an enquiry and report. This Sub-Committee now forms part of the Women's Patrol Sub-Committee of the Leeds N.U.W.W., which has invited a Patrol Organiser to Leeds to address a small Conference on November 5th on "The Organisation and Work of Women Patrols."

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Provincial Council.

By kind invitation of the Wallasey and Wirral Society, the Provincial Council will be held in Wallasey on Nov. 12th. A public meeting will take place at 8.30 in the Liscard Concert Hall, when Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Ford, and Mrs. Swanwick will speak on Women's Work in time of War.

The Work of the N.U. in War Time.

We are constantly asked what the National Union is doing in this time of war. Here is a brief summary of the different activities to which energy and resources have been devoted:—

1. It is maintaining many Relief Workrooms for unemployed women and girls.
2. It is giving assistance to the Belgian Refugees by helping to organise hostels, by collecting contributions of money and by distributing large quantities of clothing, some of which is made by unemployed women in the workrooms.
3. It has collected a considerable sum of money for the Queen's Work for Women Fund, and has provided workers for the Central Committee for the Employment of Women.
4. It has established exchanges and registries for voluntary workers and unemployed women and a hospitality bureau.
5. It has opened special premises at 50, Parliament Street, S.W., as the Headquarters of the Suffrage Active Service League.
6. It is lending many of its highly-trained organisers, to help in establishing Maternity Centres; to organise Women Patrols for work in the neighbourhood of camps; to help the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and other relief agencies.
7. The Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. is equipping Hospital Units for Service abroad.
8. The London Society of the N.U.W.S.S. is equipping a Motor Ambulance for service at the front.

Funds are urgently needed at the Headquarters of the Union, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W., where the vast amount of relief work that is being organised keeps a large and skilled staff continuously employed. Special donations for any of the above objects will also be gratefully received. Cheques to be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, crossed "London, County and Westminster Bank," and sent to the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

Press Report.

Very interesting articles dealing with the relief work of the National Union have appeared in *The Queen*, *The Lady's Pictorial*, and *The Evening Standard*. The article by Mrs. Henry Fawcett in this month's *Englishwoman* should be specially noted. Mrs. Fawcett's appeal for support for the National Union hospitals for the front which are being organised by Dr. Elsie Inglis, was published in *The Manchester Guardian*, *Westminster Gazette*, *Morning Post*, and several other papers, with the result that a considerable number of cheques have been already received. Press Secretaries will be doing a service by ensuring publicity to the appeals issued by the N.U.

Workrooms.

The war is hitting the West-End dressmakers very hard, particularly those who specialise in evening and afternoon dresses, which will be very little in demand this winter. We know of one such firm who are doing their utmost to keep all their hands in work, but are finding it very difficult, especially as they are unable to obtain any grant from the Queen's Fund. They are anxious, in order not to throw out of employment women who have worked for them several years, during the war to make up ladies' own materials at a cost that will just enable them to pay the wages of their workers. If anyone would like further particulars, we shall be very glad to put them in communication.

Materials.

This week we hear of a splendid gift which is coming from Colombo. Four ladies are sending us two bales of warm clothing for the wives and children of soldiers, and any who are suffering through the war, and £10 to be expended on boots and shoes. We are making a great point of fitting out girls for domestic service. We should be grateful for materials to be used for this purpose. Black serge, drill or unbleached linen, and cambric are specially needed. The Parliamentary Department badly wants a cupboard.

Toys.

"Box Cottage," designed by Pamela Colman Smith, which is a delightful little house of cardboard, with garden and trees, will soon be ready for sale at 1s. This toy has the double advantage of giving work to the N.U. workrooms, and also to the workers in the box-making trade, which is hard hit by the war.

Voluntary Work.

We have just had two most welcome offers—one of a motor-car and chauffeur, and the other of a house in Calais, to be fitted up as a hospital, and put at the disposal of Dr. Elsie Inglis.

The N.U. Van.

Will anyone offer hospitality in London for the van, and so save us the expense of housing it?

The Shop, 50, Parliament Street, S.W.

The past week has been as busy as ever for the Suffrage Shop. We have been successful in finding employment for a number of women. Many interesting cases have passed through our hands. A French lady, just arrived *via* Folkestone, and unable to speak English, came into the shop, bearing a recommendation from a member of the Folkestone Suffrage Society. She was at once passed on to our Hospitality Department, which took charge of her, and efforts are being made to find pupils for her. We are extremely grateful to all those who have sent us old clothes and gifts of material. But, like *Oliver Twist*, we are always asking for more. More money and more materials, notably flannel, natural-colour, white, and red; long cloth, calico, muslin. Servants' black and print dresses, aprons and caps, and second-hand clothing to re-make and adapt are urgently needed, and we are badly wanting a chest of drawers or cupboard to store these articles. We are now employing seventeen out-of-work dressmakers in our workroom, and are executing and able to receive further orders for underclothing, shirts, plain blouses, dressing gowns and children's garments of all descriptions.

Hospitality.

Hospitality, for which we never appeal in vain, is urgently needed for an English family of six. They have lived in Berlin for the last sixteen years, and the mother has supported the family by teaching English, French, and German for twelve years, the father being incapacitated by a fall from his horse, which rendered him mentally deficient. The children range from eleven to sixteen years. The case is so pressing that any reader of *THE COMMON CAUSE*, in London or the country, able to offer hospitality, even for a short time, is asked to wire or 'phone to Miss Dorothy Courtney at 14, Great Smith Street, on Friday if possible. The French lady for whom we asked hospitality is now enjoying a fortnight's rest by the sea. We received several kind offers in response to our appeal. We still ask for hospitality in London, as many needing it cannot take advantage of offers from the country on account of work in town.

Nearest to Breast Milk

Fresh cow's milk, to which Mellin's Food has been added, is Safest and Best for baby.

In fresh milk there are substances which are *essential* to the life, health and sturdiness of a growing child.

Fresh milk, to which Mellin's Food has been added, is easily digested by even the feeblest baby, and provides the most perfect equivalent to mother's milk.

A sample of Mellin's Food, sufficient to prove its value, and useful Handbook for Mothers, "The Care of Infants," will be sent FREE on request.

Mellin's Food

MELLIN'S FOOD, LTD., PEEKHAM, LONDON.

THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Dr. Inglis reports that she has already received £2,800 towards the £3,000 she wanted for her three hospital units. But she wants as much more as she can get, as it is impossible to know till they get to work, how the need may develop:—"In one place perhaps a cholera camp, needing a special body of fever nurses; in others an ambulance corps to work on the lines of communication. *The only thing that would hinder development would be want of funds.*" Meanwhile, the action of Turkey has made the destination of the first unit uncertain. It will still probably go to Servia, but if it cannot get through, to France. The second will be for Belgium. The Prudential Assurance Company has generously lent Dr. Inglis a room for her stores, and she wants "thousands of bandages" besides pyjamas, bed-socks, socks, bed-jackets, &c. Volunteers wishing to go out should send their names to Dr. Inglis, 2, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, as though they may not get into the first units, they may be needed later on. Subscriptions to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

We wish to bring THE COMMON CAUSE before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

Monthly Meetings for Sellers.

We propose to hold monthly meetings for sellers at the office of THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., when Mrs. Harley and Miss Royden will be present to meet those who are giving the paper such splendid help. All who have helped or wish to help in future are cordially invited.

The meetings will, as a rule, take place at 6.30 p.m. on the second Thursday in the month. For November only, the day will be Tuesday (10th), as the Provincial Council is fixed for the Thursday.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained at 44, Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington, has kindly consented to provide this depot, and copies, posters, and bags can now be obtained here for High Street, Kensington, and district selling.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C., has kindly consented to take charge of the Holborn and St. Pancras District. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Mrs. Paul will distribute papers to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Miss Cohn has kindly consented to distribute papers to sellers and receive the returns, &c. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

The following donations have been received for paying unemployed women to sell THE COMMON CAUSE:—Miss L. M. Linnell, £1; Mr. T. Tindle Anderson, 2s. 6d. (second monthly donation); Mr. and Mrs. Greg, £1 (third monthly instalment); "E.M.," £1.

DISTINGUISHED SUFFRAGIST NURSE.

Miss Jessie Freshfield, who did such wonderful work under shell fire at Antwerp, and with her companion nurses was specially praised in *The Times*, was a member of the Winchester Society for Women's Suffrage.

"SUFFRAGE" HOSPITAL AT DOVERCOURT.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has nothing whatever to do with the "Women's Suffrage" Field Hospital at Dovercourt, organised by the Men's Society for Women's Rights, and we understand that it has no connection with the British Red Cross Society.

DEATH OF MRS. McKIRDY.
("Olive Christian Malvery.")

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. McKirdy, better known perhaps by her maiden name, Olive Christian Malvery. Mrs. McKirdy was deeply interested in social work, and herself lived for a considerable time among the poor and the suffering whom she sought to help. Her first book, "The Soul-Market," is the one by which she will be remembered. Mrs. McKirdy was a comparatively recent and perhaps never a very enthusiastic convert to Suffragism, her dislike of militancy being more of a deterrent than even her sincere and ardent admiration for Mrs. Fawcett was an incentive. Suffragists must regret her advocacy of something in the nature of State regulation of vice, in her last book; but she leaves behind her many who will lament the loss of her ardent and vivid personality, and eager sympathy with the suffering and the weak.

KINGSWAY HALL MEETING.

Collection.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Miss Helen Seymour	...	5 0	Miss E. B. C. Jones	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Macmillan	...	5 0	Mrs. Gilbert Elliot	...	1 0 0
Mrs. A. M. Drew	...	5 0 0	Mr. R. F. Cholmeley	...	5 0 0
Miss C. M. Eve	...	5 0	Lady Scott Moncrieff	...	5 0 0
Rev. J. Estlin Carpenter	...	5 0 0	Mrs. M. A. Pictou	...	2 2 0
Miss E. M. L. Atkinson	...	1 10 0	Miss Lake	...	5 0 0
Miss C. E. Marshall	...	2 0 0	Mrs. Homan	...	2 0 0
Miss R. M. Lea	...	2 0	Miss Edith Place	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Sulman	...	2 6	Mrs. Carl Flugel	...	10 0 0
Miss W. G. Fraser	...	2 6	Anon.	...	1 0 0
Mr. G. T. Pilcher	...	10 0	Dr. Jessie White	...	1 0 0
Miss Leila Smith	...	1 0	Mrs. E. Bird	...	1 1 0
Sir Victor Horsley	...	1 0 0	The Misses Courtney	...	10 0
Miss E. M. Leaf	...	3 0 0	Mrs. Osmaston	...	5 0 0
Miss A. W. Cooke	...	10 0	Anonymous	...	25 0 0
Miss C. Crichton-Stuart	...	2 2 0	Miss E. M. Duncan and Mrs.	...	
Mrs. Stanton Colt	...	10 0 0	F. Lawrence	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Mosenthal	...	2 2 0	Mrs. Gleigud	...	1 1 0
Miss Laura H. Montgomery	...	2 6	Miss Lovell	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Stewart	...	5 0 0	Mrs. Poynting	...	2 6
Mrs. M. George	...	10 0	Mrs. Rackham	...	5 0 0
Miss J. Musgrave & Miss Ward	...	3 0	Miss E. M. Rope	...	10 6
Miss C. I. Macdonald	...	4 0 0	Miss A. M. Royden	...	5 0 0
Miss C. I. Coxhead	...	1 0 0	Miss Helen Rush	...	1 0 0
E. M.	...	1 1 0	E. K. R.	...	5 0
Miss L. McKellen	...	1 0 0	Mrs. Stanbury	...	1 0 0
Mrs. C. H. Corbett	...	1 1 0	Miss Nona Stewart	...	10 0
Mrs. Davidson	...	10 0	Miss P. Strachey	...	1 0 0
Miss Burdett	...	1 0 0	Mrs. and Miss Wall	...	10 0
Miss Constance M. Allen	...	1 0 0	Miss D. Willis	...	5 0
Mrs. Bluns Smith	...	1 1 0	Mr. Marshall	...	2 10 0
Mrs. M. E. Thomas	...	1 0 0	Mrs. Mackinlay Barton	...	2 0
Mrs. W. W. Greg	...	2 2 0	Miss Agnes K. Brook	...	10 0 0
Miss L. Fuller	...	5 0 0	Miss D. E. Brown	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Oliver Strachey	...	1 1 0	Miss Chatterton	...	5 0
Lady Strachey	...	1 0 0	Miss H. C. Couper	...	2 2 0
Mrs. Gray Buchanan	...	5 5 0	Miss E. E. Covernton	...	10 0
Miss M. E. Brailsford	...	5 0 0	Miss G. Fishwick	...	2 6
Miss Rosanna Powell	...	10 0	Miss I. O. Ford	...	1 0 0
The Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson	...	5 0	Miss M. H. Hamilton	...	10 0
Mr. Alfred Brailsford	...	2 0 0	Miss Edith J. Harley	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Henry Knowles	...	1 0 0	Mrs. Hills	...	1 0 0
Miss E. P. Cox	...	10 0	Cash Collection at Kingsway	...	
Miss Inray	...	5 0 0	Hall	...	63 3 4
The Hon. Mrs. Norman	...	1 0 0		...	£249 0 4
Grosvenor	...	1 0 0		...	

FOR THE CHILDREN.

The general assumption is that, of articles of the same kind, the most highly-priced is generally the best. But it is by exceptions that the rule is proved, and perhaps the best exception to this particular rule is "Neave's Food" which, despite all competition by Chemists and Scientists, still remains after ninety years quite the best, though undoubtedly the cheapest, of the many foods for infants.

At a time like the present when vast numbers of people find their incomes literally cut in half, economies have to be exercised in directions in which a few short months ago economy would not even have been considered. Even the cost of the food of the child in the cradle must now be reviewed. And in this case such a review may well result in a much greater benefit than mere reduction of cost. It may lead for instance to the adoption of "Neave's Food" as Baby's regular diet.

Messrs. Josiah R. Neave & Co., have insisted more strongly on the excellence of their "Neave's Food" for Infants than on its undoubted cheapness, and knowing the natural tendency on the part of the public to assume that what is cheapest cannot in the nature of things be best, have devoted the vast amount of money they have spent in public advertisement to focussing the attention of the public on the unrivalled testimony from eminent Doctors and from Mothers and Nurses to the really wonderful results attending the use of their Neave's Infants' Food.

Now, during the present war, when expense has to be so carefully considered, would seem to be a peculiarly suitable time for testing this great firm's statement that their Food is the best. It is, of course, as they say, the cheapest.

Readers writing to Fordingbridge will receive free and post free an excellent little booklet entitled "Hints About Baby," whilst if two penny stamps are enclosed, they will receive in addition, free of all cost, a sample of generous size of the Food itself.

We are advised by Mr. D. V. Mirams, of "Assurance Truth," whose advertisement was in last week's issue, that a number of ladies have realised their investments and bought annuities in order to be able to give to the various funds more freely. A well-chosen annuity is, of course, one of the safest possible investments, and the considerably larger income obtained makes them at present even more than usually attractive. Moreover, the income derived from an annuity is paid on the day due, war or no war.

Typewriting and Shorthand.
(Miss Mildred Ransom.)

Educated Women trained as Private Secretaries.
Careful attention given to each pupil.

Second-hand Typewriters bought and sold.

Meetings reported; MSS. accurately
copied. First-class work.

195-197, EDCWARE ROAD, LONDON, W.
Telephone 6302 Paddington.

Mrs. Rackham on How to Help the Various Social Agencies Now at Work.—II.

Mrs. Rackham began her second lecture by pointing out the importance of utilising agencies already in existence, and of withstanding the temptation to leave useful work in order to rush into new schemes. She then described the functions of some of the principal organisations.

The Charity Organisation Society organises relief and endeavours to improve the condition of the poor. It did not originally intend to give relief itself, but it was found necessary to do so in certain cases. It makes a point of enquiring carefully into each case, and sets up the principle that private charity should be the first line of defence. When the C.O.S. takes up a case it gives adequate help, and tries to bring all agencies to bear on it. Registration is employed to prevent overlapping, and a case-paper is made out for each family. These ideas, started by the C.O.S., have now been adopted by other Societies. The C.O.S. offers good training to social workers, in that they have the opportunity of learning about many different agencies, and doing various kinds of work, and while we may be unable to endorse all its methods there is no doubt that it has done and is doing much valuable work.

GUILDS OF WORK have a similar aim, but their main idea is the personal friendship of one visitor with a few families.

THE LOCAL WAR RELIEF COMMITTEES deal only with distress arising out of the war, and not with chronic cases of distress. Each appoints a sub-committee to provide work on a sound commercial basis, as distinguished from relief work given by the ordinary Distress Committees, which is often both expensive and unsatisfactory. Local Committees have been advised to give relief in food rather than in money. This is false security, as tickets can be exchanged, and in any case the system is apt to lead to such anomalies as the provision of uncooked food to people who have been given no money with which to buy firing! Local Committees have had little guidance as to the scale of relief. It should be fixed, but not absolutely rigid. If higher than the average wage of unskilled labour there will be heartburnings among those still at work.

Mrs. Rackham then turned to agencies dealing with special classes of the community, and gave a brief account of some of them. Maternity Centres and Schools for Mothers can be started in a simple way, even when the local authorities have not taken up the scheme. Milk depôts are much needed in the poorer districts, and meals for mothers, and classes for sewing and cooking are greatly appreciated. The employment of women as home-helps while the mother is incapacitated meets a great need. Grants of half the expenses of such schemes can be obtained from the Local Government Board.

There is much work to be done among children and adolescents, and Care Committees and Juvenile Employment Agencies demand infinite personal care on the part of many volunteers. Girls especially are in need of care at this time. Those who are working among them should beware of giving purely negative advice; they should try instead to increase their ambition, provide places where they can work and be amused, and keep before them the possibility of emigration.

MARGUERITE M. MCARTHUR.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Kentish Federation.

A meeting of the Kentish Federation Committee was held on October 21st at 24, Park Lane by kind permission of Lady Brassey for the purpose of electing a Representative to the Provincial Council and reporting the patriotic work done in Kent. The Honorary Treasurer, Miss Druce, was chosen to represent the Federation. Only six societies were represented at the meeting but of the others Herne Bay and Ramsgate sent accounts of good work done. The questions of Maternity Centres and Women Patrols were discussed and it was decided to endeavour to obtain collections for the Scottish Federation Women's Hospital.

Working Parties.

The question of how far voluntary needlework can be utilised without danger of increasing unemployment has been widely discussed.

Some of our Societies are making clothes for poor people who would not otherwise be supplied.

WINScombe W.S.S. decided to give clothing made at its working parties to women and children in distress owing to the war. As it happened the first recipients were the Belgian refugees who arrived at Winscombe on the afternoon of September 18th. The President's car and another conveyed them from the station to the little village of Shipham where they are being housed. Those needing clothes have been provided from the ample stock supplied by the working parties: in addition money has been provided by the Branch to buy them boots. The Belgian women are making garments for their children from material provided for them. Clothing has also been sent to the depot for Belgians in London. At each working meeting short addresses or "talks" have been given by members or others.

It was decided at the Annual Meeting on October 7th to give clothing to the various agencies for relief at Bristol worked by the Suffrage Society there.

WASHINGTON AND USWORTH has decided that old garments should be collected by various members of the Society, sewing parties held, at which these garments should be remodelled to serve the needs of the poor children of the district during the coming winter. A large quantity of useful garments were gathered in from various sources. The sewing room in the Higher Elementary School, Washington, has been lent by the Durham County Council. Here sewing meetings are held on Thursdays at 6 p.m. and a stock of useful garments for children has quickly accumulated. The distress in the district appears to be less acute than was at first anticipated, so the committee have decided to send the articles now in hand to the Belgian Refugees.

WEDNESBURY.—A "Mending" Party is held weekly in a room lent by the "Women's Co-operative Guild," several members of which are also members of our Branch. A further offer has however been made by the above "Guild," to lend us one of their shop-windows for the display of our mended, patched, and renovated "creations," some of which have been made literally "out of nothing." As the cold weather is not yet here, none of the things have been distributed. Several suggestions have been discussed, and these may be useful to others.

(1) To send garments for children of school age to head teachers to distribute at their discretion. (N.B.—Many of our assistant mistresses are strong "Anti's").

(2) To send garments to the Central Red Cross Needlework Committee in our town (our Hon. Sec. is on this Committee).

(3) To give garments to midwives, nurses, and health visitors, for distribution.

A Welcome Gift.

The London Society wishes to thank the kind donor of a parcel sent anonymously containing a Thermos flask and 2s. 6d., which will go towards the Ambulance Fund.

North-Eastern Federation.

A meeting of the Federation Committee held on October 27th. It was reported that in addition to helping with the regular work of the Societies each organiser had been placed in charge of a special piece of work. One was acting as hon. sec. to the Queen Mary Committee for the County of Northumberland, another in charge of a shop at Gateshead, a third hon. sec. to the Northumberland, Newcastle, and Tyne-side Belgian Relief Committee, and another in charge of the women's section of a newly-formed organisation for employing the time and energies of those who for want of occupation and amusement were spending too much time in the streets and neighbourhood of camps.

Newcastle.

The work at the shop opened by the Women Workers' Committee has progressed. Miss Richardson, the new Treasurer of the Society, has given all her time to the work for the past seven weeks. A great many knitting and sewing orders have been executed. About 100 women have been given employment and ten firms have been working in conjunction with the committee. A work-room has been started where four girls are employed dressing dolls in the costumes of the Allied Armies. These are produced at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. Orders

will be gratefully received and full particulars sent to any who apply for them.

A members' meeting was held by kind permission of Mrs. Thompson, at 10, Windsor Terrace. Mr. Ericsson in the chair. Dr. Williams spoke on the part Suffragists should take at this time, and appealed for help in providing suitable occupation for the young people who are spending too much time in the vicinity of the camps and in the streets. Mrs. Hall reported that £63 had been received in answer to an appeal for the organiser's salary. Miss Andrew gave a report of the work undertaken by the members since the outbreak of the war. At the end of the meeting five houses were offered for members' meetings to be held during the coming months.

Sunderland.

The Sunderland Society was appealed to on the day of the Declaration of War by the local Representative of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and since August 2nd, a considerable number of our members have been very hard at work. A Mothers' and Babies' Club has been opened at St. Barnabas School-room, the use of which we have free by the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. M. Tilston. We are constituted a branch of the Club already existing in Sunderland, and shall benefit in that way from the money-grants and other forms of assistance offered by the Local Government Board through the local Health Committee. We have had help and wise advice from the officers of the parent branch, which, by the way, numbers a large proportion of Suffragists amongst its officers and active helpers; but the credit for initiating and organising the new branch lies entirely with the Committee of our Suffrage Society. Mrs. Johnson, the Secretary, Miss Milbanke, Chairman of Committees, and Mrs. Mundella, Treasurer, have undertaken all arrangements. At this stage we have neither nurse nor doctor actually attached to our club, but we hope to have both when a good start has been made.

Reports from other Societies in the Federation show that Suffragists are doing their full share of work of all kinds in the present emergency, and in many districts are well represented on local committees. ANNFIELD PLAIN, BIRTLEY and STANLEY are holding ambulance classes. BISHOP AUCKLAND initiated a meeting of the representatives of all women's organisations, which was held, and demanded a town's meeting, which was immediately called. A levy of 1s. on each member was made for the benefit of the Federation. CONSETT and BLACKHILL is holding meetings, where the question how to meet existing needs is discussed. Outfits for sixteen children have been made. In DARLINGTON Miss Lucas is organising all the free classes in the town, including ambulance, sick-room cooking, &c. EDDINGTON is doing work in connection with the V.A.D. DURHAM is holding sewing meetings, and some of the Committee are helping the S.S.F.A.

Gateshead

Society is making and repairing children's clothes, to be given to women. A shop has been opened in High West Street, with Miss Sheard in charge, where orders are received and placed with unemployed women, who report themselves from the Labour Bureau.

Hetton and Houghton-le-Spring

initiated public meetings for women, with the result that influential committees were formed to co-operate with the men's committees. HEXHAM reports that a private hospital of thirty-one beds is being organised at Stocksfield. WALKER is holding concerts to raise money for the Belgian Refugees Relief Fund, &c. WEST HARTLEPOOL is taking an active part in the campaign for providing new trades for unemployed women. Other Societies also report useful work on the part of their members.

Public Meeting at Leeds.

On October 22nd a public meeting was arranged, at which Councillor Margaret Ashton spoke on "Women's Work in Time of War." The Rev. H. H. Maleson, M.A. (Vicar of Manston) presided. Miss Rogers (Leeds Secy.) gave a short report of the work of Leeds Society, and Miss Renton (Organising Secy. of West Riding Federation) who is now Head Secretary of the Lady Mayoress's Committee, spoke of the work of this Committee in Leeds. Miss Ashton, referring to her title, said she felt it was better to speak of the work of "non combatants" than of "Women's Work." For men and women together had to work to keep the homeland going, and to make the best they could of the dislocation of the nation's life consequent upon the war. A good collection was taken in aid of the local branch of Queen Mary's Fund for Unemployed Women, which will be added to the sum shortly to be handed over for this purpose by our Treasurer.

Scottish Suffrage Field Hospital.

We regret that owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over the 3rd list of donations to the Scottish Field Hospital.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urged to write distinctly when sending particulars of meetings.

NOVEMBER 5.

Birmingham—Grand Hotel—Chair, Mrs. Osler—Speaker, Miss Matheson 8.0
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"
 —Miss Alice Younger, on "The Problem of Unemployment Among Women" 4.30
Leamington—35, Warwick Street—Joint Meeting—Mrs. Ring on "Women's Work" 3.0

NOVEMBER 7.

Kilmarnock—Jumble Sale, proceeds of which are to be devoted to Relief Work.

NOVEMBER 9.

Birmingham—Bearwood Council Schools—Mrs. Ring 8.15
Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street 3.0
Cardiff and District—The Office (132, Queen Street)—Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "Relief Work in Liverpool," followed by discussion 7.30

NOVEMBER 10.

Birmingham—"Bee Hive," Bishopsgate Street—Mrs. Ring 3.0

NOVEMBER 11.

Bristol—Greenbank Co-operative Hall—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 3.0
Gateshead—Bewick Hall, High West Street—Miss Sheard on "Maternity Centres"—Soloist, Mrs. J. Denton 3.0
Purley—Lecture Hall, High Street—Mrs. Whalley on "Work of the N.U.W.S.S. in War Time"—Chair, A. Gibson, Esq. 8.0

NOVEMBER 13.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?

The large London Market enables **ROBINSON Bros.** of 5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St. E.C. To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, 2036 North. ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

WANTED.—Orders for Cut Flowers, Wreaths, Room Plants, Window Boxes; Care of or laying-out of London Gardens. Also Home-made Jams, that more employment may be given during the War, instead of less.

WOMEN'S GARDENING ASSOCIATION, 62 and 64, LOWER SLOANE STREET. ORDERS PLACED FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE

A LARGE VARIETY OF ART POTTERY AT MRS. BERRY'S, 72, JUDD STREET, W.C. (One minute from St. Pancras Station.) Cornish and Devon Ware. Old English Patterns in Leadless Glaze. Please call and see if you do not find the very thing you want.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 53, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

POSITIONS VACANT.

LADY, strong, capable, trained in cookery and domestic work for household where work is done by three ladies; good salary.—Box 3,504, COMMON CAUSE Office.

VICTORIA WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT.—The Committee of the above Settlement in Liverpool, at which there are resident and non-resident students, desire a Resident Warden from the first of January next. Applicants with University Honours preferred, and experience in the organisation of social work essential. Salary £100 per annum, with residence. Write, sending credentials, as soon as possible, to Box "H 921," Lee & Nightingale, Liverpool.

POSITIONS WANTED.

A LADY living near Harrod's desires a morning or afternoon engagement; correspondence, reading, needlework, shopping, or in any useful capacity.—K. C., COMMON CAUSE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

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